

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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S E C R E T STATE 195943

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: UNGA, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: KOREAN INITIATIVES FOR UPCOMING UNGA

REFERENCES: (A) SEOUL 6876 (B) STATE 192038

SUMMARY. WE REMAIN CONCERNED THAT ROK INITIATIVES PRIOR TO GA SESSION COULD GENERATE DPRK COUNTER MOVES WHICH WOULD LEAD TO STERILE GA DEBATE TO THE DEROGATION OF INSCRIBED AGENDA ITEMS. SUCH RESULT WOULD REDOUND TO THE DISCREDIT OF THE ROK AND ERODE SUPPORT. IF ROK OBJECTIVE IS TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR SUPPORT OF FUTURE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE, WE SEE NO URGENCY, AND WOULD URGE THE ROK TO DELAY ITS INITIATIVES UNTIL THE POSSIBILITY OF THE KOREAN QUESTION BEING RAISED THIS GA IS PAST. YOU SHOULD DISCUSS

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THIS WITH FONMIN SOONEST AND, WHILE STRESSING OUR CONTINUING SUPPORT, ELICIT FROM HIM CLEAR STATEMENT OF CURRENT ROK OBJECTIVES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE KEY QUESTION IN RECENT EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT IS THE ROK DEFINITION OF ITS DESIRED "MAXIMUM RESULT" (PARA 1, REF A). THIS APPARENTLY HAS NOT BEEN CLEARLY

STATED IN SEOUL. VIEWED FROM HERE, AS SUGGESTED REF B, RECENT ROK INITIATIVES CAN ONLY BE CONSTRUED AS A DRIVE FOR MEMBERSHIP OR FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION KOREAN QUESTION THIS GA SESSION.

2. WE BELIEVE OTHER UN MEMBERS WOULD VIEW THESE MOVES IN THE SAME LIGHT, AND THAT THIS WOULD BE REGARDED AS A BREACH OF FAITH IN VIEW OF CONSISTENT ASSURANCES WHICH WE HAVE MADE AND UNDERSTANDINGS ROK HAS CONVEYED TO CORE GROUP AND OTHER MEMBERS IN VARIOUS FORA TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ROK DID NOT INTEND TO TAKE INITIATIVES THIS GA SESSION.

3. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THERE IS NO DISPOSITION, EVEN ON PART OF DPRK SUPPORTERS, FOR KOREAN QUESTION DEBATES THIS SESSION, AND THAT THE REACTION TO ASSURANCES THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SUCH DEBATE HAS BEEN A COLLECTIVE SIGH OF RELIEF.

4. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT, WHILE ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT DPRK DOES NOT PLAN TO INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION OR ITEM THIS SESSION THEY UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE CONTINGENCY PLAN WHICH WOULD BE ACTIVATED TO COUNTER ROK MOVES.

5. SHOULD ROK INITIATIVES TRIGGER DPRK REACTION AND PRODUCE STERILE AND TIME-CONSUMING DEBATE SUCH AS OCCURRED IN 1975, THIS COULD THEN REDOUND TO ROK DISADVANTAGE THROUGH RESENTMENT AND LOSS OF CREDIBILITY, EVEN, PERHAPS
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PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE CORE GROUP.

6. IF THE "MAXIMUM RESULT" ROK SEEKS IS TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR FAVORABLE DISPOSITION TO A MOVE FOR MEMBERSHIP SUBSEQUENT TO THE 32ND GA, TIMING IS NOT CRITICAL. REFERENCES TO ROK MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY DURING GENERAL DEBATES WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE HISTORICAL RECORD, BUT SUCH A RECORD IS ALREADY FIRMLY ESTABLISHED THROUGH PREVIOUS DEBATES. OF MORE IMPORTANCE WOULD BE PRIVATE ASSURANCES OF SUPPORT, WHICH COULD BE ACHIEVED ON THE MERITS OF THE ROK CASE IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BOTH IN NEW YORK AND VARIOUS CAPITALS. PROBLEM WE SEE THEREFORE IS NOT ONE OF SUBSTANCE BUT OF TIMING.

7. WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER PAK SEEMS MORE RELAXED THAN IO BUREAU DIRECTOR CHUNG WOO YOUNG (REF A). REQUEST YOU DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH PAK AT EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. TRY TO ELICIT FROM HIM A CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ROK OBJECTIVES RE THE UN.
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